

of our Nation and the glory of Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CUMMINGS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE NOVEMBER MEMO AND THE STATE OF THE UNION

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the President addresses the Union tonight, promising more government, more spending, and more taxes.

Obviously the President did not read the November memo from America. The majority of the Union rejected the President's policies in the election of persistent Big Government.

King George III and the British imposed the Stamp Act 250 years ago this year. The colonists decried the new tax.

Higher taxes and more confiscation of property and wealth is not a sound solution; after all, taxes are already too high; after all, revenue into the Federal coffers is at a record level; after all, Americans are already hampered by ObamaCare taxes; and after all, raising taxes is not a proven economic theory to grow the economy. We need less tax. We should consider the fair tax that does not discriminate in taxation.

The President should remember history and not follow the old failed policy of King George III of more taxes but should pivot the Union to less taxation, less government, and more freedom for our citizens.

And that is just the way it is.

WE SHOULD HONOR DR. KING EVERY DAY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the day that we honor Martin Luther King's life and legacy—it should be honored every day—a great American who stood for justice, liberty.

Yet in this House, there is not a desire on the other side of the aisle to increase the minimum wage, which would be one of the first things Dr. King would want. There is not a desire on the other side of the aisle to pass a Voting Rights Act for which Dr. King is known to have worked on the march in Selma and help bring about some 50 years ago. And there is no effort to reduce the great disparity in wealth that threatens the middle class and threatens the future of democracy and the way we know America.

We should honor Dr. King every day. Unfortunately, many and most of his values are being neglected by the majority in this House.

REMEMBERING REBECCA D. LOCKHART

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Rebecca D. Lockhart, a proud Utahn and, in fact, the immediate past speaker of the House of Representatives in Utah. Unfortunately, she passed away just a few days ago at the young age of 46.

Speaker Lockhart was elected to the Utah House in 1998. She was trained as a registered nurse, and she first served on the Health and Human Services Committee but quickly threw herself into transportation issues, for which she was widely known.

After her fourth session, she was appointed to the house leadership as the vice chair of executive appropriations and stayed in leadership the remainder of her time.

In fact, in 2008, then-Representative Lockhart was elected as the assistant majority whip, and in 2010 she became the first female speaker of the Utah House in Utah history. Her tenure was epitomized by a more collaborative bottom-up approach that focused on having an open process where all members of the body could bring forward ideas for discussion.

Becky Lockhart and her husband, Stan, raised their three children in Provo, Utah. They have been stalwarts within the party, and her presence will be keenly missed. Her trailblazing legacy will live on.

May God bless Rebecca D. Lockhart and her family. We thank her for her service, and we will miss her greatly.

LET US FIND AREAS OF COMMON GROUND

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, this weekend we observed the celebration of the life of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. He talked about engagement for the American people, for jobs, for justice, for peace, and it was pretty exciting to see the response across the

country at a time when all of these issues are in the forefront.

Tonight we will hear from the President of the United States. From what I hear about what he will present, it will reflect what we have seen across the country in terms of what he said last year reflected across the country: about when women succeed, America succeeds; about college affordability; about child care; about sick leave; all the kinds of issues that enable families—not just women, but families—to succeed. Hopefully it will reflect what we talked about on opening day: better infrastructure, bigger paychecks.

As we all know, despite all of the economic gains and all the indicators that tell us that progress has been made in our economy—and, indeed, it has—it isn't reflected in the paychecks of America's working families.

So what we hear tonight, I know, will be in furtherance of increasing that paycheck, starting from the middle, starting from initiatives that benefit the middle class and those who aspire to it, all of it a reflection of the American people's thinking, all of it about engagement for policies that Reverend Martin Luther King talked about, all of it hopefully that we are able to do in a bipartisan way.

Let us find the areas in which we have common ground. Let us work together to get that done, build confidence between us in this body, among the American people, and keep America number one in education, innovation, and justice and a factor for peace in the world.

RAISING TAXES DESTROYS JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, after 6 years, American workers continue to lose jobs under President Obama's failed economic policies.

The President makes the exaggerated claim of job creation, but workers feel the facts. The administration's policies have caused stagnant wages, weak economic growth, and a shift toward many Americans settling for part-time jobs.

Raising taxes destroys jobs. The Washington Times reports that the 140 million employment payroll in November was up by only 1.2 percent over what it was 4 years previously. The statistic claimed by the President that the unemployment rate has gone down to 5.8 percent is inaccurate because so many people are eliminated as having stopped looking for jobs.

In December, the labor force participation rate fell to the lowest point in over 30 years. This is not an economic recovery to be celebrating, and the American people deserve better solutions for jobs.

House Republicans have passed bipartisan pro-growth bills to create American jobs. We will keep fighting to help Americans get back to work full-time.